

WHAT SETTLERS SAY
OF MANITOBA

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WHAT SETTLERS SAY
OF
MANITOBA
AND
THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

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PREFACE.

As the best means of making those who are looking towards the Canadian North-West familiar with what opportunities that vast and fertile country offers to strong and industrious emigrants, "Letters from Settlers" have from the first been a special feature in the CANADIAN GAZETTE. Some of them are now reproduced in this handy form, that their usefulness may continue in force.

LONDON, MARCH, 1884.

What Settlers say of Manitoba and the Canadian North-West.

HOW A MAN OF SIXTY-NINE ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AND FAMILY.

The following letter was addressed to and duly appeared in the *Evesham Journal*. It is a wonderful record of success, not only on the part of the writer, but of those associated with him; and it contains, as many such letters do, evidence of the shiftlessness and failure of what the writer forcibly calls "swell sons":—

SIR,—Sitting here in my own new house on the beautiful prairie of the great North-West, I thought you would just like to hear from the old courageous emigrant once more. Well, sir, I am pleased to have to tell you that I and my dear wife and family are all very well, and very happy in this our new home. I have done all the building myself. My dear wife and children have worked hard, and got me the materials to do it with. We have a good two-storey house, with back kitchen, front ditto, and parlour, five bedrooms, pantry, and frost-proof cellar. You will say, "Well done, old man of 69!" Yes, sir, and my family have earned me 2,000 dollars in 16 months to do this with. I have stabling for three horses and four cows, and a house for my implements, one span of carriage-horses and oxen, and some pigs—all in the great North-West! We can now drive to our place of worship in our carriage or sleigh and pair!

Well, sir, we had a most beautiful summer and fall up to Christmas. New Year's Day brought us very cold weather, but now it is getting milder as the sun is getting powerful. We have plenty of work to be done all winter, getting out fencing and firewood, and I am happy to say we have a good supply of wood, and none too much. We had a nice few potatoes, carrots, turnips, and swedes, some wheat and oats. My oats were very good—40 bushel per acre, sown on the turf and ploughed in. I also planted a few peas, put them in on the 16th May, and on the 16th July we gathered them quite full, and a beautiful flavour to them as well. I kept a few to see about the boiling when hard, and they were very good indeed boiled. I hope to have in this spring 60 acres of corn and roots, so that we shall have a nice lot to harvest next summer. We are only four miles from the Oak Lake station on the great Canadian Pacific Railway. It seems almost incredible, but they laid the road and formed it very near 500 miles last season; in fact, they have been running, and are now running, the regular trains daily 300 miles from us, and freight trains 400 miles. They hope to have it through to the Rocky Mountains in three years, so that traffic can pass through. With regard to my good neighbours, we help each other in busy times, because labour is expensive—ten shillings per day in busy times, and keep. My son and I and my span of horses went one day to help to thrash a neighbour's oats. We thrashed out his little lot of six acres in six hours, and he had over 300 bushels. My son then went for a few

days to the next neighbour's, who has been on his farm two years, and they had 3,000 bushels. That is something like helping a poor emigrant along. No rent to pay, no bumming by landlords! Be industrious, and keep jogging along, and all will be well with you! This is no place for drunkards or idlers. We had some swell sons of gentlemen last winter boarded with us, but when pay-day came to be posted on them they had no cash, and they said, "We expect our cash over by the next mail," but the mail got lost, I suppose, for it has not arrived yet. This is a specimen of our English gentlemen's sons, one a doctor, one a clergyman's son; very bad boys, left indebted to us 40 dollars, which they don't try to pay. This is the place for good, honest, sober men.

By-the-by, Mr. Editor, you will remember me coming at the last minute with my tall man to get his ticket. Well, sir, he is getting on wonderfully well. He sent his poor old mother, who lives in Birmingham, three hundred dollars for a Christmas-box—that is the way good men are getting on here—and he paid me for all I paid for him. The other gets ten shillings per day and house rent free and firing. Don't he bless the day I brought him! His family is now with him, and they are very happy and well-to-do—cash for all their wants!—I am, &c.,

D. W. BANISTER.

Oak Lake, Manitoba, Canada, 14th February, 1883.

AN ACCOUNT OF MAPLE CREEK, BY A FARMER FROM LINCOLNSHIRE.

In the spring of 1883 Mr. Ernest Chaplin received the following from one who had long farmed in Lincolnshire, and it was placed at the service of the *Canadian Gazette*. Like the preceding letter it closes with a warning that the North-West is no place for the idle:—

SIR,—I was pleased to hear from you. I [received your letter at Maple Creek the day before I started for Winnipeg. I arrived here last night, and intend going back as early as possible. I took up land at Maple Creek, as I told you in my last letter, and am perfectly satisfied. The climate is much milder than Manitoba, and fully three weeks earlier. We had a hard trip down. The train runs no further than Swift Current at present, although the track is laid within nine miles of Maple Creek. We came with a waggon to Swift Current, and then took the train. It is very cold here in Winnipeg now—deep snow, but we have none on valleys out west. I like the country much better than here for several reasons. We have plenty of good timber, good water, and fine pasture for cattle; also a company have commenced a coal mine close at hand. I am located 50 miles east of the crossing of the south branch of the Saskatchewan River, which will be a division on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and I think will be a good town. The headquarters of the Mounted Police are to be removed from Port Walsh to Maple Creek. Two stores are already up and about 50 shanties, and I expect in less than two months all the Government land will be taken up near the railway. My homestead is about two miles from the station. I have a shanty up and a little land broke, and shall do all I can this summer. I called on Mr. M'Tavish this morning about some Canadian Pacific Railway land. He says it will not be in market until next fall, and the price will be higher, as the land is better than back east. I shall have to work for the Company this summer, and then go on my farm.

I am sure it is a good investment to buy land at Maple Creek. I will give you a

description of the country west of Qu'Appelle, which I travelled through before the line was graded. After you leave Qu'Appelle plain, we come into low land full of small scrubby poplar and willow, for about 20 miles, then we come on the prairie, which is much similar to the Qu'Appelle, but the land is heavier for about 40 miles. We come to Regina, or Pile of Bones Creek, which now is quite a little town—no timber, and very scarce of water. The plain extends on to Moose Jaw Creek; the land is much the same. Moose Jaw is a division on the Canadian Pacific Railway. Several buildings are now going up; and there is quite a little boom in town lots. There is a great rivalry between it and Regina, but Moose Jaw is decidedly the best town site. For about 20 miles west of Moose Jaw the land continues good. Then we come to the Cactus Hills and then to the Dakotas, which are quite unfit for cultivation. Until you get west of Rush Lake there is no timber. We come to Swift Current Creek, which is a nice creek with small timber. A few miles north there will be quite a little settlement here. The land again becomes a little rough for about 50 miles, then we begin to have nice creeks with timber and fine pasture. About 20 miles further west we come to M'Coy Creek, fine land also. Then you rise up moderate land until you come to the river.

I write this so that you can advise any one coming out. One thing more I have got to say about young gentlemen coming out here. I have seen several come out here and expect to find things easy, but it is a mistake; a man may do well here if he will go right to work and try. I know several cases of young men come out here, stay about the towns until half their money is spent, then go out to look for land, having no idea how to go about it, and then go back home. But men who will work can do much better here than in England.—I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

J. H. SCOLEY.

Waverley Hotel, Winnipeg, March 15th, 1883.

MOVING FROM ONTARIO TO MANITOBA.

It is a not uncommon experience that farmers in the older Provinces of Canada, who have large families, sell out and transplant themselves to the newer and cheaper lands of the North-West, and the following is a letter addressed to Mr. William Harder, of Winnipeg, from one who, as the head of a family of twelve, has taken this step, and succeeded:—

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your questions I would say that after having travelled over a large portion of the Western States in quest of good land and a home for myself and family, I removed from Exeter, Huron County, Ontario, to Manitoba, early last spring, and took up a homestead near Oak Lake station on the Canadian Pacific Railway, about six miles south of that place.

I sold out my farm in Ontario, which consisted of 85 acres, for 6,700 dols., and with the proceeds I was able to homestead from the Government and purchase two sections from the Syndicate, leaving me ample to supply my own farm with implements, stock, &c., &c.

So that in place of having in Ontario 85 acres of land, I am now the possessor of $2\frac{1}{2}$ sections, or 1,640 acres, of which 500 acres are broken and ready for seeding next spring.

I did not raise any crop last season except a few oats and potatoes. The oats yielded largely, being of excellent quality (in fact the best I have ever seen), a sample

of which was sent to Mr. Begg, of London, England, for exhibition. I had two acres under potatoes ; the land was thoroughly broken, and the yield was an exceptionally fine one.

Should we have anything like a fair season, we should have a handsome return for our labour next autumn.

The land in this section of the Province is excellent. There is plenty of good water, which we obtain from Pipestone Creek, and sufficient standing timber for firewood for immediate use.

I would also like to mention that this district is particularly well adapted for growing small fruits. I was engaged in fruit raising in Ontario, so speak from experience.

You ask as to whether I regret coming out here, and I most emphatically declare that there is no regret on my own part or that of my family in changing to our new home in the North-West. I feel freer, there is more elbow-room, so to speak, and a man with a large family like I have has better prospects in every way.

With the increased facilities which I expect the Canadian Pacific Railway will grant us to enhance the value of our property, I have no hesitation in saying that this section of Manitoba will prove one of the finest along the line of railway, and the farmer who wishes to improve his position in life could not make a better move than by coming out here ; that is, a man who is no better off than I was in Ontario, with a small farm and a large family.

I have not, of course, yet reaped a crop ; but from the reports of neighbours all along the road the prospects are most encouraging. In fact I have visited some old friends who were at one time neighbours of mine in Ontario, but have been settled here for some time, who are in every respect well fixed, and do not express a regret at their change.

The weather here in summer is all that can be desired. It is true that the cold in winter is greater than in Ontario, but we have experienced none that we could not stand.

My family consists of twelve persons ; three of the boys are able to plough, and two of the girls are able to assist in housework. They all never enjoyed better health than they have had during their nine months' residence here.—Yours truly,

Oak Lake, Feb. 23, 1883.

ROBERT LANG.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF A SETTLER FROM BRADFORD.

The *Bradford Observer Budget* published the following as extracts from a private letter from a Bradford gentleman, who had recently settled in Manitoba :—

You asked me many questions about this district, but I may point out that you have evidently made up your mind not to view otherwise than in a disparaging light all accounts of this El Dorado of the imaginative emigrant. I will, however, give you a brief though "plain and unvarnished tale." G—— and I are "squatted" on an odd section in this exceedingly rich district. We have a square mile between us, which of course we shall buy at Government valuation from the railway company that first makes a line through the district, which rumour says will be next fall. In all probability by the time you receive this we shall both have taken up a homestead and a pre-emption

across the Assiniboine, so that we shall have at an early date 640 acres each, which, we expect, will realise "something handsome" in a little time. The Shell River, or, as it is called by the Indians, Essissippi, is a large tributary of the Assiniboine, situated nearly midway between Fort Ellice and Fort Pelly; or, to be more exact, in lat. 50° 56' N., and long. 101° 15' W. (position of our section). The country around about is decidedly park-like, having abundance of wood and water; the soil at the same time being exceedingly rich. The predominating wood is the white poplar, though birch, oak (scrub), spruce, maple, &c., are by no means scarce in the river valleys and in the "big bush" north. We have put up a lumber shanty (lumber is the name given to sawn spruce planks), 16ft. by 14ft., which is cosy and warm; also a long stable, 20ft. by 18ft.; a waggon shed, 20ft. by 18ft.; and have dug a well 21ft. deep, where we have a plentiful supply of good water, though we do not use it for the cattle; melted snow is their beverage. We had a couple of Canadians to help us, who were most expert with the axe. Time has never yet hung heavily on our hands; we have had, and still have, plenty to do. The winter so far has been the most severe that has yet been experienced. It has, indeed, been intense, though we have now, I am thankful to say, broken its back.

S. 35, T. 22, R. 2S, *Shell River, Man.*,
February 20th, 1883.

"ONE OF THE FINEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD FOR ANY ENERGETIC YOUNG MAN TO GET ALONG IN."

Such is the opinion of the writer of the following letter, which is reproduced from the *Oban Times*:—

SIR,—Will you allow me space in your paper to say a few words about Manitoba and North-West Territory? I came to this prairie country two years and four months ago, took up a homestead and pre-emption, done my settlements on same, which I am improving every day. The first year after settlement, when I got my seed in the ground (about the 20th of June), I passed through the town called Rapid City, heading for Grand Valley. I got to Grand Valley by stage. I left my homestead in charge of Duncan Sinclair, late of Fernoch, Kilmichael, Argyllshire, who is located on the same station of land. On arriving at Grand Valley on the 22nd of June, found the Assiniboine river all overflowing its banks—a very high flood. I crossed the river and landed where to-day the growing city of Brandon stands. I commenced to build a dwelling-house for Mr. Mobsworth, head engineer on the Canadian Pacific Railway. The building was superintended by J. B. Lifton, now M.P. I followed the building line in Brandon up to the month of November, 1882, then signed contract for Government building at Cappell for the use of emigrants in the spring. This huge building is well advanced, and villages are springing up every ten miles along the Canadian Pacific Railway. I went west as far as Moose Jaw Creek, where a town site is now surveyed. It is impossible to believe how far this country is settling up. This is one of the finest countries in the world for any energetic young man to get along in. If some of the young men of Oban and surrounding district would only move across the salt water, they would be benefited by the growth of North-West Territory.

Troy, Cappell.

J. M'C. (A lodger once in 6, Aird's Place, Oban.)

SUCCESSFUL RANCHING IN SOUTHERN MANITOBA.

It is now well known that the Canadian North-West contains many situations particularly suited to successful ranching, and the following on this subject is reproduced from the *Scotsman* :—

SIR,—Having seen a letter in your valuable paper from Mr. Robert G. Douglas, of Waukopa, Turtle Mountain, we have taken the liberty of writing to confirm his statement regarding this district in the “ Great North-West,” and also to add a few other items of interest to intending emigrants.

The first thing in the spring the cattle here are turned out, after having the shelter of sheds all winter, which are mostly poles covered with hay or straw. We cut hay here, as we find cattle do much better on it and straw than they do on the frozen grasses of the prairie, and as we have no rain here from the middle of October until the 1st May we require no solid roofing. The natural grasses are much better and richer in this country, especially about the Turtle Mountain district, which abounds in bunch grass, than they are in any parts of America, and we never have any summer drought, which through the different States and territories causes such an amount of death in the herds. We have also better stock, as most of our cows are Ontario grade shorthorns, the produce of which can be brought to maturity at three years, and will then weigh one-third more than six-year-old Texan steers, which are quoted in Chicago market at the highest figure given. I have known steers here dress from ten to twelve hundredweight, while the average in the Southern States is from five to six hundredweight. They also claim in this country to be able to make a beast fit for the market for £2, which is about the sum required to raise them South, and we have the advantage of a better article, higher price, and double the weight. I have been informed by several stockmen in the Turtle Mountain district that their loss has not been one per cent. from death or wandering away ; while in Colorado it is in many herds as high as forty per cent. By the foregoing you will see that what Mr. Douglas says is perfectly true as regards stock-raising, as are also his other statements—wheat averages 35 bushels to the acre ; oats, 65 bushels ; and barley, 48 bushels. . . .

The wooded part of Turtle Mountain is 35 miles long, and nine miles across, and is covered with oak, poplar, birch, elm, ash, &c. It derives its name from the fact that the mountain resembles a turtle in shape. There are numerous creeks flowing through the district, which furnish the very best of water for man and beast. Thus you will see that we have everything necessary for successfully carrying on farming, ranching, or both ; and I can thoroughly recommend this country to any of your readers who think of emigrating.—I am, &c.,

Wanbeesh, Turtle Mountain,

Feb. 26th, 1883.

REGINALD A. HUNTER. . . .

CANADA BETTER SUITED TO THE BRITISH EMIGRANT THAN THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. R. W. Easton, of Rat Portage, and formerly of Kansas, makes the following contrast in a letter to the *Scarborough Mercury*, under date of February 8, 1883 :—

I would advise emigrants from Great Britain who want to get land in America to come to Canada in preference to the United States. One reason is that any emigrant

who wants to get Government land in the United States has first to become a citizen of that country, whereas in Canada they are still British subjects, and stand on an equal footing with the citizens of Canada. Besides, the customs of the people and the manner of farming are similar to those of Great Britain, so that the farmer has not so much to learn as he has in the United States. With regard to the land in Manitoba, it is as good as any in America. The crops have been good. The average wheat crop of the Province last season was 5 quarters; oats, 8; barley, 5 to 6. The root crops were equally good. In some localities potatoes yielded as high as 12 tons per acre, and turnips as high as 30 tons (2,000 lbs. to the ton in America), other root crops and vegetables equally as good. Fruit is not much cultivated yet, but wild fruit is plentiful. Stock farming is carried on to some extent, some stock-men having over 10,000 head. Sheep-farming is not carried on to any great extent yet. Where I am at present is a timber and mining country. It is 140 miles east of Winnipeg, and is the centre of attraction just now, especially the gold and silver mines. Some of them are very good, yielding as high as £200 to the ton of ore.

FOUR YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN MANITOBA, BY A FARMER FROM ONTARIO.

The following record of success appeared in the *Canadian Gazette* on May 17, 1883, it having been placed at the disposal of that journal by one who, as the best of all tests of what the North-West was worth to British emigrants, visited a large number of districts, and got written accounts of what to date had been done:—

DEAR SIR,—I have been requested to give you a short account of my career while in this country. I left London, Ontario, in March, 1879, and arrived at my destination, 110 miles west of Winnipeg, a place known as Pine Creek, where I located on a homestead of 160 acres. In June I broke six acres. I then set out to look for logs suitable to build a comfortable house for the winter, 20 by 24. There were four others with myself, so we helped each other to get the logs on the ground. Then I got the walls of my house up, and in the fall I cut grass known as Scotch grass, and thatched it; and as it happened I was situated on the trail, and no other house nearer than 15 miles, I was doomed to keeping a stopping place, which proved very profitable. Then I erected a large stable for the accommodation of the travelling public. I had as many as 55 stop with me for two days, and I cooked for them myself, which I found very difficult at first, but practice gave me courage. The only thing I disliked about the business was that my house being so small and large crowds coming to stop over night and not room for them all to lay down to rest; so to make the most out of my small space I would lean them up against the wall as they went to sleep, so to make way for the rest. The next spring I put in crop about ten acres of oats and barley on the sod, which yielded, as I thought, very good—about 30 bushels to the acre. I also rented 15 acres for wheat, and it averaged about the same, and I disposed of it at the granary for one dol. per bushel. The same season I built a larger and more comfortable house, where I now live. In the spring of 1882 I purchased from the Syndicate Land Company, Winnipeg, 480 acres, for 2.50 dols. per acre, with a rebate of 1.25 dols. per acre for all under cultivation at the end of five years, when I expect to apply for my deed. I have in all 1,000 acres in the vicinity of Carberry and Melbourne, which I think in a few years

will be worth 20 dols. per acre, if not more. I broke and backset 130 acres last season with three teams—two horse and one ox team; and in the fall ploughed 30 acres of stubble ground. I have ready for crop next spring 165 acres. I have rented out 30 acres at the rate of 6.50 dols. per acre, the average rent in this part of the Province for backsetting; that means the first crop.

I intend starting five pair of oxen to break next season, as they are far ahead of horses for breaking. They don't require anything but what they pick up on the prairie. My oxen got nothing except in that way all last season, and never were out of harness more than two weeks from the time they started in the spring until it froze up in the fall. I would advise any person intending to make this country their home to come early in the spring, say about April, and rent a piece of land what he thinks enough to grow feed for his stock for one year; then go and select his homestead and break and put up his house large enough for his family, and in the fall move everything to his new home, where he will be happy the remainder of his days.—I remain, dear sir, yours truly,

G. B. MURPHY.

HOW A STOCKBROKER SETTLED HIMSELF IN THE SOURIS DISTRICT.

Subjoined is a letter which originated in the same manner as the one preceding. It is useful as showing that industry and courage can make up in many cases for lack of experience:—

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your favour of the 17th ult., asking “for a few particulars of the career of the farmer, from his start in this country to the present time, and what success his efforts have obtained him,” I would beg to give you my own experiences as regards my farming operations, they being that of about the average farmer.

I settled in this, the Souris District, in the spring of 1880. At that time it was a perfect wilderness, not an acre of land having been “taken up.” Through being utterly ignorant of everything pertaining to farming (I had previously been a stockbroker in Montreal), I did not make much of a show the first season. With the assistance of another settler I got out house logs, built a house, and “broke” ten acres, besides planting about half an acre of potatoes under the soil. In the fall took a trip to Montreal and returned with my wife and family, and in time to fix up my house and draw considerable firewood before winter set in. Immediately the winter broke up I put in my crop, viz.—six acres wheat and ten acres of oats, six of the latter being on the sod, and “broke” 24 acres more. The above 17 acres yielded the following—175 bushels wheat and a little over 500 bushels oats, which I was well satisfied with, being about 29 bushels wheat and 50 bushels oats to the acre. When it is taken into consideration that over half the oats were simply thrown on top of the sod and only half harrowed in, it was a most remarkable yield. I may say that I obtained for the above one dollar for the wheat and one dollar and ten cents for the oats per bushel at my granary. Last season I put in all oats and “broke” 50 more acres. I have now in my granary 2,460 bushels of oats, being the yield off 41 acres.

To sum up the results of my three years' farming operations, I have to-day a first-class 320-acre farm within three miles of a market, viz., Melford; a good substantial house, built of logs, lined inside and outside with lumber—22 by 32 feet; stable and granary; 91 acres all ready for seed in the spring; span of horses;

cow; two yearling calves, and all necessary agricultural implements to work a farm (besides 2,460 bushels of oats), for which I may say that I refused last summer 4,000 dols. Besides which it should be taken into consideration that I have kept myself and family comfortably out of proceeds of farm.

In conclusion, would say that my capital consisted of 1,200 dols., and that I can see no reason why any one with that amount of money should not meet with the same success as I have done in this country.—I remain, yours truly,

FRANK BURNETT.

Milford, Manitoba.

HOW TWO BREWERS' MEN FROM MONMOUTHSHIRE GOT ON.

In the following letter to the *Ross Gazette* is not only a record of success, but some good hints to intending emigrants:—

SIR, —It may interest some of your readers to learn how two of your fellow-townsmen are getting on here who worked for many years in the Ross Brewery. When we came out here, we got employment at once in a brewery at a good salary, and have saved a bit of cash, and last week we took each 160 acres of the Government land, and intend to begin breaking it up as soon as the weather permits—say in May—then build a good house, and get wood for fire ready, leaving our wives there all the winter while we come into town and work again till the following spring, returning then to break up more for three years, when the Government will give us our papers, and the land will be ours for ever, and worth a few thousand dollars. All at home who are willing to work should come out here—they will be well paid and well fed. Even for taking snow off the streets one gets 10s. per day, and no man ever has a meal without plenty of beef (three times a day). Any one coming should bring with him plenty of warm clothes, if only second-hand clothes, for he would be able to sell them well to some of his mates. The winters are very severe, but healthy. You never hear of any one having a cough, although the thermometer has been at 46 degrees below zero. Our summers again are hot and short. The cheapest way to come is by the Allan Line, or some other of the large shippers, and then train direct to Winnipeg. Avoid coming by the Lake route, as it is slow and costs a lot of money to get food on the journey. Our wives and families enjoy good health, and like the country well, and are now quite proud of being farmers' wives, and strongly advise all young women to come out, as they will soon get employment, or, what is better, good husbands. Will be very glad to answer any letters for information from the old country, addressed—

CHARLES GRIFFITHS, or GEORGE FOOTITT,

Box 210, General Post Office,

Winnipeg, Manitoba, February 26th, 1883.

Winnipeg, Manitoba.

WHAT A YOUTH FROM SHEFFIELD SAYS OF HIS EXPERIENCE.

The *Sheffield Independent* published the following extracts from a letter sent by a youth from Sheffield to a local friend. The letter was dated Sunnyside, Winnipeg, March 3, 1883:—

The growth of Winnipeg is almost incredible. When father came out here the population was between 7,000 and 8,000; 10-day it is between 25,000 and 30,000.

Then there were scarcely anything but wooden buildings : now there are splendid brick and stone buildings, and some as fine hotels and stores as you will find in Sheffield. Property rose in value about 15 months ago to a ridiculous extent in the city : building lots in favourable situations made tremendous prices, as much as 500 dols. per foot frontage being paid for some lots on Main Street. A good many people made fortunes, but those who held to their property, and some who bought land dear in the expectation of it rising still higher in value, were left in the lurch, and will be heavy losers. Things are dull in Winnipeg this winter owing to the reaction which is always sure to follow such a boom, but we expect the emigration this year will be very heavy, and this will give a fresh impetus to trade, as those who go west will likely buy at least part of their outfit in Winnipeg. There is no land open for home-steading anywhere near Winnipeg now ; in fact, it is all taken up as far west as the Canadian Pacific Railway is built on both sides of the line for some distance back ; but parties coming out with means can buy improved farms from settlers, or buy unimproved land from speculators, who bought it from the Government at from 2 dols. to 2½ dols. an acre, and now ask from 8 dols. to 30 dols. an acre. If a man is coming out with a family it is the best way to buy or rent an improved farm, as he will then get a crop the first year ; if a single man, he can hire out for a time until he finds a place to suit him. Wages in the summer time are very high. The snow generally goes about the middle of April, and ploughing commences a few days after—i.e., as soon as the soil gets thawed enough. Oats can be sown as late as the end of May, and barley is often sown in June ; last year we had three acres of barley sown and cut within ten weeks. Potatoes and vegetables of all kinds grow well and very fast. The summer is pretty warm, but not very oppressive, except a day now and then. I think last summer we had two days that we had to stop work in the middle of the day. June is generally the rainy month, after which we just have a shower occasionally. Harvest commences about the middle of August, and after this we get splendid days, but nights rather cold, till at last the ground freezes up. This is generally the first week in November. Sometimes we get snow almost at once, but often not till about Christmas ; then sleighing commences, and we get lots of fun. We do not get a snowstorm and then a warm day or two to make slush ; but the snow accumulates all winter till it is from 20 in. to 30 in. deep on the prairie, and in some places is drifted up into banks 8 ft. or 10 ft. high. The temperature is very low in the winter, but we do not feel the cold nearly so much as I anticipated. It has been as low as 50° below zero twice this winter, and from 20° to 30° below is nothing unusual, but the air is so dry that, if there is no wind, you do not feel it any colder than I have done in England, though if there is a north wind it is pretty chilly. We had the worst storm of the season a few days ago. Last winter a family who lived about 12 miles from Winnipeg, on the west side, were frozen to death. Their house took fire, and they exerted themselves trying to put out the fire, but without avail. One daughter then started to walk to the next neighbour's for assistance, about half a mile, but got lost on the way, and her body was not found for some days ; and the next day the rest, consisting of father and daughter and a girl who was visiting them, were found in the stable, and they all died from the effects of the cold ; but, fortunately, this is an almost unheard-of occurrence, and we have to stay at home on the stormy days and keep the stove warm.

Farmers began to break up their land as soon as possible after they get the crop put in the land that was broken up the previous year. They plough the land about 1½ to 2 inches deep (which is hard work on the teams, as the soil is tough) ; it is

allowed to lie until the fall, or perhaps, if the sod does not rot very well, till the next spring, when it is again ploughed, this time about $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, and the grain is then sown, and generally yields a very good crop. We tried about an acre the first year we were here, sowing the seed broadcast on the prairie, and then ploughing in; but it did not come to much, although I have heard of some parties getting a good crop this way, but it cannot be depended on. Cows pay better here than anything. We bought nine the year before last, for which we paid 450 dols. We made 1,200 lbs. of butter, and averaged 30 cents. per lb. for all we sold; then the calves in the fall were worth 15 dols. each, so you see they more than paid for themselves in the one season. Then we sold one (the smallest) about a fortnight ago to a milkman in Winnipeg for 70 dols., and one died this winter.

Taking things altogether, I think this country is far before England, for a small farmer at any rate. You have to work hard, and the cost of living is very high, but by the time you have been settled two or three years, if you have no heavy losses, you are in a fair way to become independent. You have no rent day to look forward to, and no labour to hire, but do all the work yourself.

LADY CATHCART'S SETTLERS.

Lady Cathcart's labours in the cause of promoting the emigration of the poorer crofters to the North-West are widely known. The following is a selection from a long series of letters from the Benbecula Colony:—

DEAR LADY CATHCART,—Yours of the 10th July came to hand in due time, which I am most happy to have received, and to have the honour of writing to tell you about our prospects in this good new country. We are all enjoying the best of health since we arrived here, both old and young, and we all feel sure that the country is very healthy. Our land is beautiful also, and surrounded favourably in every way, and the soil is rich. This we know by our crops—as potatoes, turnips, barley, oats, and beans are very good. I have some new potatoes which weigh half a pound already, and they have been only nine weeks in the ground, and other crops are as good as that, better than any we used to see at poor old Benbecula; and in every respect we are glad of the change, and would strongly recommend our friends and neighbours to come here as soon as possible. All who are good, strong, able, working men, who would be ready to turn their hands to everything that might come in their way, should come; idlers are not wanted. I feel more than happy to see my party doing so well, and they will be a credit to the Highlands. I may mention, if my services were required to bring out more people from Uist in the spring, that I feel sure they will do well, and I am most willing to do all I can to benefit the poor people at home. We are glad to hear of Mr. Macdonald being on his way to Manitoba, and that he is coming to see us. I am sure he will be greatly delighted with the country we have here, and also to see us doing so well in our new homes. I have my house nearly finished—made of logs 23ft. long, 16ft. broad, and 8ft. in walls—and my byre is ready; also my hay for two cows and two oxen—my stock at present. I may mention that we received great kindness from the Canadian Pacific Railway officials, especially J. H. McTavish, land commissioner, near Winnipeg.—I conclude with my respects to you, my lady, and to Sir Reginald, and remain, your obedient servant,

DONALD MACDIARMID.

Benbecula Colony, August 11th, 1883.

MY DEAR SISTER,—I was very glad to get your letter, and to hear that you were well. I have not much news to give you, as Lachlan told all to mother, only that we are all well, and also all our friends here. I think the winter here is far healthier than at home, and I can surely say this, for I have not heard as much as any of the Benbecula settlers even so much as speaking of the cold this winter. I have not felt the least toothache myself since I came here. I was happy to hear that Annie had a young daughter; I hope both of them are doing well. You were telling me that you were asking my mother to stay and let the rest come; but it will be far better for her to come, for I know that she will be better off here than in the old country. This is the only place for her, for she will not see high tides here, nor storms. I know you would keep her as comfortable as you could, but Marion alone can make her far more comfortable with two months' wages here. I am sure you do not like to be left alone, but though I would be alone here for ever, I would not ask her to come if I would think she would be better where she is. You were asking how we were getting on here? I was never so well off in Benbecula as I am every day since I came here. We have the finest flour and oatmeal, and I can cook it in any way I like. I can make loaves as good as any baker in Glasgow. We have only one cow, and we were not a day without butter and cheese since we came. We have rabbits to our dinner almost daily. You can tell John if Lachlan had learnt how to shoot before he came we would be better off, for this is an awful good place for game. This is a blessed place to be, without a factor or ground officer. Tell John that I heard that Roderick Macdonald, Lochmaddy, was a manservant with a farmer at Brandon. You will be glad to hear that we were quite comfortable and warm in the house; we did not feel the least cold in it. There is no church nor school yet, but we expect soon to have both. You can tell my mother that Peggy never had a cold since we came here; all of them are running in and out the same as at home, sometimes with cloth on and sometimes not. I was sorry to hear that little Johnnie was not so well. You should have told me what was wrong with him. I am sure my mother is not thinking on Peggy so often as she is thinking on her. Tell her that she was dancing with gladness the night we got her letter, when she heard that she was to come. I was very glad that Marion came from Glasgow; they never told me where Lizzie was, or what she was doing. Love to all friends, to wee Mary, and all the children, to John and all inquiring friends. Mind write soon.—Your loving Sister,

(Signed)

CHISTY MACPHERSON.

Pipestone Creek, Wapella, 21st January, 1884.

DEAR SIR,—I have great satisfaction in giving you a short account of our good prospect in this new country since our arrival last May. We lost no time in making our first attempt of breaking up the prairie and planting our potatoes in the furrow after the plough, and I may mention that it was rather strange, and also very little we thought of the scheme at the time, but in eight weeks we had new potatoes better than any we ever saw in old Benbecula. We also sowed barley, oats, beans, turnips, carrots, onions—all proved wonderfully well considering the late time of the season. The first potatoes were planted on the 28th May, and as late as the 25th or 26th June; all the crops ripened all right.

As soon as the crop was in we turned our hands and minds to chopping wood for our log houses in the beautiful North-West. We had fine weather all the time, but of course we were afraid of Manitoba's severe winter, which was advancing towards us; but we managed to have plenty comfortable houses and stables a few months

before we knew any change; and, in fact, we don't know anything of a severe winter as yet. We are delighted with it in comparison to our old-country winters. We are working outside every day, and some days the thermometer is 50° below zero, and still the sun shining bright, just as a summer day in Scotland. Of course a man must be careful in going out to have mittens on his hands, and pretty fairly covered up. We don't use overcoats while working, and sometimes pull off our jackets. There is no danger in getting wet—every day very dry and clear, and therefore, according to our experience in this country, we have no hesitation in recommending our friends and neighbours at home to take the earliest opportunity in joining us in this beautiful fertile new country. We shall be happy to do all in our power for their welfare and benefit in every respect, and the longer we are here the better we like it. As a rule, people in this country are very kind and sociable, and more especially to strangers. We find the climate very healthy since we came.

Now this country is free to all, and therefore we hope that other landlords will follow the scheme set before them by Lady Gordon Cathcart. Such will be a great benefit to their tenants, and also to their own interest in due time. The sooner they come the better for themselves, but certainly we do not recommend idlers to come, nor be assisted to come, but we are happy to say that there is not many of such class in our western islands.

In addition now, I may mention that I am exceedingly happy that my private reports to my countrymen are so strongly supported by so many of themselves within three years of my former visit to Canada, and I shall be most happy to give and to do all in my power on behalf of the welfare of my poor countrymen.—I am, &c.,

DONALD MACDIARMID.

Benbecula Colony, February 15, 1884.

DEAR ANGUS,—Your kind and welcome letter came to hand on the 17th of December last, by which I was glad to hear that you were all in good health, as I am happy to say we are at present. I was longing very much for your letter, but I was happy to receive it at last. You got high prices last market—above the prices of this country, I think. A good heifer costs from £10 to £12 here. I paid £15 for a cow and £10 for a heifer, and they cost £4 in addition for freight.

We have eleven head of cattle in all, and they are doing splendidly through the winter. The calves are three times better than those we had in Benbecula, and without anything but hay. I heard you had a good crop, but, as you say, there is a good deal of trouble in getting it in proper order.

I never feel sorry I left, for I was more than tired going about that loch and stones, while here I can cut a rig half a mile in length without a single foot of drain, and need no manure, and it will yield any kind of crop. You mention about hand work in this country; all the work here is done by horse-power—reaping and mowing—but the poor emigrant has to face some difficulties in the beginning. As soon, however, as he builds his house and ploughs enough of land for a living, he is all right; but in the old country he is kept going all the year through with good horses, and after all he cannot earn a living, and besides paying rent, what causes the failure but the poor soil? It is a wonder how slow the old-country people are to understand the value of 160 acres of land for nothing; but many of them are not able to come here, for they require some means. Another thing they are mistaken about is the weather in this country. I told you before about the autumn and summer, and the winter is nothing like what you expect. We have some cold days, but not very often. We had one day in November 26° below zero, one day in December 37°, and one day in January 40°. The

cattle were able to pasture during the most of November and greater part of December, but we had a heavy fall of snow about the 17th of December. The snow lies an average of about six inches. In high places there is very little, and our cattle were able to go half a mile to drink when it was 40° below zero. The cold here is different from the old country. We have no rain or soft snow, and the air is always dry. As far as we have learned about the weather you have had this winter, we prefer our weather a great deal better. We were afraid of the weather at first, but now it is nothing. We are almost working out every day. I cut 100 logs, and they are on the stance.

You ask me to tell you the truth how you would prosper in this country. I have no doubt you would prosper a great deal better here than in the old country, as you can start with your capital. You have no rents to pay, the soil is good for grain and cattle raising; high prices can be had for each at any time, and you can trade here in other ways as you do at home. I am quite sure if you were here to see this country in blossom you would choose it before any place in Uist. I must come to a conclusion by letting you know that Marion is growing up very big, and as fat as an innkeeper. Flora keeps talking about the old country, and never forgets anything about the old neighbours. They send their kind love to Peggy and all the rest of the family. We all join in love to you all, wishing you a good New Year and prosperity. Give our kind love to all the neighbours, and let D. M'Rury know that you received this note, and that we are all in good health.

Please write soon. Hoping to see you across first spring, I am, &c.,

(Signed) JOHN MACDONALD.

Benbecula Settlement, Wapella P.O., N.W.T.

WHAT A LADY SETTLER THINKS OF THE NEW HOME.

The following letter from a lady who, with her husband and family, emigrated to Manitoba in 1882, was sent to the *Cheshire Observer* for publication, and appeared in its columns :—

MY DEAR MRS. H.,—Your very kind letter with books arrived yesterday. Thank you very much. When it was too late we found out that "Ancient and Modern" hymns would be liked better than "Sankey's;" so when I read your letter and found they were not Sankey's I was quite pleased. Our Sunday services are interesting; sometimes 38 attend, when our four chairs, our boxes, tables, and the stairs are filled. The rest sit on the floor. I wish you and Mr. H. could see us at 2.30 on Sunday afternoon. I feel it an honour that our cabin should be the first place of worship here. Sometimes we have preaching, and sometimes Bible-class. Last Sunday was the latter, and it was Fred's turn to conduct it. Some of the settlers walk ten or twelve miles, others come in their waggons with bullocks, and others in buggies with horses. We have to sing the same hymns Sunday after Sunday, so we shall all be glad when the rest of the books arrive. I intend putting brown paper on them for strength, and will write inside each, "With Mrs. H.'s best wishes." My dear sister arrived safe and well. She is a great help, and works with excellent spirits, and likes the country much. I am pleased to hear you are feeling well, hoping you will continue so. I am very sorry to hear about Miss L., and I trust Mrs. L. is well. Willy has been working on the railway some time. We hope to have him here next Monday, for a fortnight or three weeks, for the hay harvest, and then again for the corn harvest. Fred thought it better he should go away between the seasons, as we

are already running short of money, and wish as little expense as possible this year. Next year, all being well, we hope to sail more easily. Money seems to go so quickly, and I suppose we feel it more because we have had nothing coming in. Our crops are getting on nicely, and we are looking forward to a pretty good return. Our garden looks splendid, everything coming up so nicely. My work this week is hoeing potatoes; we have about an acre of them. Last Thursday, July 12th, we had a settlers' basket pic-nic, held three miles off. There were 70 there—three single women, a few married ones, and the rest bachelors. We had a jolly time; all enjoyed it; we had croquet and music. Fred went away last week with his mowing machine to stay till Saturday. He is quite well and quite happy; does not seem to have a minute to spare for writing, except to his mother, and sometimes I fear her letters from him are short. Our summers are so short there seems no time for sitting to write, and if I were not naturally fond of it I am afraid I should follow his example. Now I must write a line to Mrs. D., and then go back to my potatoes, for I want to get them done before Fred comes back. With best love from us all, I am, ever yours affectionately,

M. D.

Oak Farm, Two Creeks, near Verden, Manitoba.

July 15, 1883.

HOW A BRISTOL FAMILY GOT ON.

After having been "settled" in Manitoba four years, the wife thus writes to Mr. Down, the emigration agent of the Canadian Government in Bristol:—

DEAR SIR,—As you are so kind to send us newspapers every now and again, I have written a few lines to let you know how we are getting along. Just now every one is busy with the harvest. I am glad to say crops are very good. We have had a very dry summer. I am also glad to say we are all getting on well; no one regrets sailing with you from Liverpool, May 1st, 1879, by the Allan steamer *Caspian*. Money has been rather scarce this year, but prospects for the next are better. We are to get a railway very near us—now building about three miles north; and there is another coming a little south of us. If you could come over now you would be surprised at the great change. There are six self-binders now working in our settlement. We have one, a cord binder. We have ourselves about 60 acres of grain to harvest, and we have one span of horses, ten head of cattle, 19 pigs, and about 70 head of poultry. So you, knowing our start, must be convinced we have done well. The Pattisons are getting on wonderfully. Miss Pattison is married. My husband has taken up more land up west, but we shall not go to that at present. We have a school for the children, and we have preaching there every other Sunday. Land is being taken up very fast, especially near the railway. The prairie is being broken very fast. We see by the papers that harvest prospects are not very good in England, and in many parts of the States. We have to be very thankful for good crops, and have had none of those dreadful storms which have visited the United States. I am pleased to say this is a very healthy country; our children have grown very fast. The boy is as tall as his father, and a great help. He has worked the mower all the hay time, and he does a great deal of the ploughing. Minnedosa, the place you knew as Prairie City, is quite a flourishing village, or town you may call it. The railway goes through it, and we shall have a grain market there this coming winter. We have also another little town six miles north-east of us,

which the same railway goes through. We are getting delightful harvest weather. The mosquitoes do not trouble us at all now—they get less every year. Ducks and prairie chicken are very plentiful. The game laws are now in force in Manitoba. My husband wishes to be kindly remembered to you.—I must now conclude, and believe me, yours respectfully,

E. BATES.

P.S.—You will perceive that we have now a post-office in this settlement.

Glendale Post-office, Manitoba, August 28th, 1883.

THE SETTLEMENT OF TWO IRISH FAMILIES IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Mr. Thomas Connolly, the Dominion Government agent in Dublin, thus wrote to the editor of the *Canadian Gazette* in December, 1883 :—
“Through this Agency I sent, in the early part of the season, two families to the North-West, comprising Francis Cosgrove, wife, and nine children, well grown up, and Mrs. Louisa Johnston, with her two sons and two daughters, all adults. Mr. Cosgrove, who had ample means, farmed on a pretty large scale in the co. Dublin, but Mrs. Johnston resided the chief part of her life in Bagot Street, Dublin, and her two sons were at school up to the time they left here. Both families located within ten miles of Whitewood, a station on the Canadian Pacific Railway. By the last mail Mr. North, of Sackville Street, received the enclosed letter from Mrs. Johnston, which, if you will kindly publish, may interest the readers of the *Gazette*. At any rate it will demonstrate that an industrious family with a little means, even if they have no previous knowledge of farming, can become successful settlers on the rich prairie lands of the North-West.” The letter is as follows :—

DEAREST, KINDEST MR. AND MRS. NORTH,—I have no words warm enough to thank you for your kind letter and papers. The children and neighbours were delighted to see the *Graphic* ; how kind of you to send it to us, but I fear you incurred expense, and that you know I do not wish ; but, indeed, it was a treat. The boys thank you for your dear fatherly letter telling them to look up. Willie will write when he gets time ; at present they are both busy hanking up our house, which we have had built of pretty pine wood, warm and comfortable, just enough for ourselves, yet if a neighbour stays too long talking we make him stay the night, as the nearest settler lies two miles off on the prairie. I have a pretty drawing-room, dining-room, bedroom, and kitchen, all on a line, so I have no stairs to climb. Then two bedrooms are upstairs—a small one for Amy, and a large one for the boys. All are grandly laid out with lace, pictures, and things that we have made. Our stoves—one in the drawing-room, another in the dining-room—give great heat, and the pipes run up through the bedrooms. Our stable is about 20 yards from the back door, very nicely fitted up for our two oxen, cow, and calf ; also the hens and the hay-stack of 20 tons, which the boys have just finished, is close to the stable. The well is not finished yet, that we hope will be about 22ft. deep, but we have plenty of water about a quarter of a mile from us, which the boys bring us until the well is finished. They will yet have hard work bringing home firewood for the winter, cutting large trees down, sawing, chopping, and

loading, two or three miles off our house, which I have named the Grange. It means lone house, or farm house, and stands high. Our land, 320 acres, surrounds us. The boys have ploughed about 22 acres, and also ploughed a fire break round the house, about an acre for kitchen garden, and some for fruit and flowers, in the spring, if spared. Oh, how very thankful I ought to feel to the good Lord for such loving care, ease, and comfort, health, and everything I can desire, and for such good, kind, hard-working children! The boys are certainly wonderful for labouring so hard from early morning to evening, when they delight to have a read, and to hear all about the Old Country. They have grown so tall and strong you would not know them, and so healthy. Amy and Lilly have wonderfully improved, and so well. Willie shot a fox, an animal called mink, and several other small animals. We expect the bears to come soon; the winter is approaching. Already the ice in our warm kitchen was two inches deep in a saucepan one night. But although the air is cold, yet it is dry and sunshiny. We send about twice a week to Whitewood—10 miles off—for provisions, letters, &c. Amy makes beautiful bread, and the cow gives good milk, but the five hens have stopped laying, so we have no eggs. The prairie chickens are few now, but meat can be had for 7d. per pound: everything else is high in price. No drink of any kind can be had, but that is no trouble to my boys. Yesterday we had 16 neighbours to pay us a visit, so that we are never lonely out in the Far West and wild prairie, yet I should like to have you all out here with us. Mr. Cosgrove and family (12 in number), who came out from Dublin with us, is settled in our neighbourhood: we visit them and they come to us every week. Willie walks over there on Sundays and returns on the Monday mornings. We are all very friendly and happy, and, like us, they have to be careful and work hard. Yet this family, with our boys, enjoy the sport of shooting and trapping. When Amy has finished her winter clothing making she will write to the dear girls. But please give my best love to them and to Mrs. North. My children join me in affectionate love and thankful hearts for the papers. May God, our loving heavenly Father, bless you all! Always mention us in your prayers. Will you, my dear, kind, good friends? to whom I owe so much, and remain your loving

LOUISA JOHNSTON.

*The Grange, Whitewood, N.T., Canada,
October 20th, 1883.*

HOW A PARTY OF NINE SETTLED AT RAPID CITY.

The following is the text of a letter from the *Times*, dated Ravensglen, Rapid City, Manitoba, November 28, 1883. Amongst other things, it bears testimony to the bearableness of the weather in winter and the mosquitoes in summer:—

Our party of nine Englishmen arrived at Winnipeg on the 26th of May last, intending to settle in Manitoba, and as near together as possible. The introduction to this town was anything but pleasant; it was raining hard, and the roads were knee-deep in mud, which seemed as though it was mixed with glue, and in Main Street there were some vehicles up to their axles. But one thing in favour of this mud is that it soon dries, and on the following afternoon the streets were hard and good for walking. I shall not take up your valuable space by dwelling upon Winnipeg, for I am sure all your readers will have read or heard about it long ago. Suffice it to say,

that its increase has been wonderful, and that when the "Far West" is more opened out it will be one of the most important towns on this side of the ocean. After staying in Winnipeg four days, we determined to settle in the neighbourhood of Rapid City, and bought tents and all the necessaries for camp life, and started "on board" the cars for Brandon, which is about 200 miles up the line, Canadian Pacific Railroad, where we arrived at 2 o'clock, and thence took double "rigs," as they are called here, to Rapid City—a drive of 22 miles. It is a pretty little town on the banks of the Saskatchewan River, and the neighbourhood is very picturesque, the valley being heavily wooded and the rugged hills reminding me of Highland scenery. A railroad has been made to Rapid City this summer, and trains are expected to run before long. This is the Souris and Rocky Mountain line, and when in working order will be a great boon to the locality. The North-Western line has also reached Minnedosa, which is 20 miles up the river from Rapid City, and next spring is to continue its course through the Newdale district to Birtle. On arriving at Rapid City, we drove across the prairie to see two sections which had been purchased six months before from the Hudson's Bay Company. The two farms are ten miles apart, the land very good and clear for ploughing, with enough wood on for immediate necessities. We spent the next three days in buying implements, oxen, and ponies at Rapid City, and on the 30th of May we left the Queen's Hotel with three bullock wagons laden with "settlers' effects." I shall never forget the people seeing us off—the children shouted, the Indians stopped to look, and the farmer laughed and said he "guessed" we had never driven oxen in a wagon before, and with a few more sarcasms wished us good luck. We had now begun the struggle of life in the Far West, and I remember, on arriving at my "section," thinking how long it would be before the place had the appearance of a cultivated farm. Summer and autumn have passed since that morning, the prairie flowers and fruits have come and gone, and instead of living in tents we have very comfortable houses, our stables are warm, and we have the prospect of a large crop of wheat next year. Though we have had to work very hard, and rough it considerably sometimes, I do not think any of us regret having come to the Great Lone Land. The long winter has commenced, and it has already been 32° below zero, which sounds very dreadful, and certainly is enough to frighten people; still it is not felt half so keenly as would be supposed, the atmosphere being very dry. I enjoyed the summer immensely, and the mosquitoes were not so bad as I expected. They are only troublesome at night, and are easily kept out of the house. The nights are always cool, even after the hottest day, which makes it pleasant for sleeping. The "fall," or Indian summer, is delightful, with bright clear days, not too hot or too cold, and most exhilarating weather. I have said enough, I think, concerning the climate to convince your readers that Manitoba is greatly misunderstood in the old country. The neighbourhood around me is well settled, and the railroad which is coming near next year will be a great help to all of us. The prospects of harvest this season were excellent, but unluckily an early frost, which extended to Florida, did a great deal of damage, though the yield of grain has been large. Stock pays well in this country; there are few sheep, but I have no doubt before long there will be large flocks. The prairie is not one flat sea of land, as many people suppose, but in many parts has very beautiful scenery. In conclusion, I would advise many people to come out to Manitoba next spring if they can make up their minds to work hard. The Province is as yet in its infancy, but quickly growing into manhood. There will be more labour than ever for emigrants, as coal has been found in many parts of the country, and next year large mines are expected to be at work. To the rich sportsman, I would say "come and try your luck here." The shooting is excellent, and from Rapid City to the "Rockies" plenty of sport may be safely relied on.

ANOTHER IRISH FARMER BEARS TESTIMONY TO THE CLAIMS OF THE NORTH-WEST UPON THOSE WHO NEED A NEW HOME.

Mr. Thomas Connolly, the Dublin agent of the Dominion Government, wrote to the editor of the *Canadian Gazette* in January, 1884:—"Perhaps you will be good enough to publish in the *Gazette* the enclosed letter I have just received from a settler in the North-West, whom I sent out last April, in which he gives an interesting account of his first season's work. As the writer is a most intelligent and experienced agriculturist, who farmed extensively for many years in this country, I think his statements and estimate of the Canadian North-West as a field for emigration are most valuable and opportune." The following is the letter:—

MY DEAR MR. CONNOLLY,—I think it is time to let you know how we are getting on. We had a most pleasant passage, and got to Brandon without much delay. I had to stop there for a month while looking for the land, and at last settled in this place, which we all like very much. We have got a good lumber-house, with eight nice rooms well sheltered from the north and west by a large plantation, which makes it very warm. We do not feel the cold as we expected. We have got plenty of firewood cut for the winter, and we have two wells with good water within ten yards of the house. I was too late this year to put in any crops, except a few potatoes, which did very well. I was quite surprised at them. The frost came very soon this year, and many had not their crops saved in time. I have about sixty acres ploughed twice, ready to sow next April, and expect a fair return, as it will all be in good order. The great difficulty will be to get a market. Our cattle are doing very well, and I think will pay better than tillage in the present state of the country. I think the land is first-class. We have got one section, and hope to get another half-section next year, when my second son is eighteen years old. I told a man that lived with me named James Hughes to call on you; he wants to come out to me. I told him that you would give him all the particulars, so please help him along. I am well acquainted with your friend Mr. Whitehead; he is a most intelligent man, and has the best-managed farm I have seen out here. We are two miles from Burrows siding on the Canadian Pacific Railway, which is most convenient. We had plenty of shooting all the fall, ducks, chickens, and hares. We had to give a good deal of them away. They were so plentiful that we could not use them all. We have some very nice neighbours all round us. Mrs. Johnston and family are on the next section, so that we are not at all lonely. There is a fine chance now for anyone coming out, as the mile belt is to be given for homesteads after the 1st of January, 1884. But I would not recommend anyone except an agricultural labourer to come out without some capital, as employment just now is hard to get. I wish to inform you that Mr. Bennett, the Immigrant Agent at Brandon, was most kind to us, and anyone going to Brandon will find him their best friend at that place. Give my kind regards to Mrs. C., and wishing you both a happy new year, I remain, yours truly,

FRANCIS MUSGROVE.

Burris Whitehead, North-West Territory of Canada,

December 29th, 1883.

P.S.—If it comes in the way, I would take one or two young men for a year if respectable, and get their land for them, at £60 each, and I think I now know the country well. I should like to hear from you how matters are going along in the old land.

CALGARY DESCRIBED FOR THE BENEFIT OF INTENDING SETTLERS.

The following letter was kindly placed at the service of the *Canadian Gazette* by a lady who received it in reply to an application to the writer of it for such information as it contains, she having seen his name in the pages of the *Canadian Gazette* :—

DEAR MADAM,—Your letter duly to hand. I will endeavour to answer your questions to the best of my ability. The country all around Calgary is extremely pretty, well watered by running streams, well stocked with mountain trout and other fish. The Bow River, about 200 yards wide, runs through Calgary; the Elbow, another river, about 90 yards wide, flows into the Bow at Calgary. The Rocky Mountains, although about sixty miles distant, are as visible as Windsor Castle is from you, although that is probably only two miles off. The land is principally prairie, a black, rich, sandy loam, which cannot be excelled for farming or stock raising—all unfenced land is open to every one's stock, and at present very little is fenced. As regards stock I may mention that all the oxen killed now in Calgary have been allowed to run at will upon the prairie, and many of them are, if anything, too fat. There are very few trees except on the streams until one gets about ten miles west of Calgary, although there is nothing to prevent them being grown anywhere. The air is most pure and bracing, nearly always bright sunshine. The rain, as a rule, makes its appearance in May and June, just when wanted, and in sufficient quantity. The last two seasons have been exceptionally dry, but, notwithstanding, my crops were good—in fact, visitors from Manitoba and elsewhere gave my crops the preference over anything they had seen below. The average summer temperature in the middle of the day is from 75° to 80°, followed by refreshing cool nights, by turns as the summer is declining, the thermometer falling as low as from 35° to 40°. The winters are much the same as the summer as regards sunshine, but there are occasional spells of severe cold. Winter commences beginning of November and ends early in March, and is composed of alternate spells of cold and heat—say a fortnight of cold with snow, thermometer varying from 10° above to 25° below zero in the night (once this winter we have had it 28° below), and from 5° below to 20° above in the day-time, then another spell of about equal duration of warm weather, commencing with a "chinook" wind (a warm wind from the south-west), probably melting all the snow—temperature from 40° to 60° in the day-time, and from 10° to 35° in the night, some whole days not freezing at all.

There are reports by some who wish to prevent settlers coming into this part of the country that summer frosts do great injury to crops. These reports have been originated by men wishing to monopolise large tracts of land in this district at low rates from the Government, and numbers have obtained very large grants of land in the form of leases. The greater part of their reports are untrue, as during my nine years' experience summer frosts have never damaged my crops, of which I give below the average yield. I have grown larger crops, but am giving you a fair average :—Wheat, 36 bushels to the acre; oats, 40 bushels to the acre; barley, 40 bushels to the acre; potatoes, 225 bushels to the acre; peas, 25 bushels to the acre; turnips, abundant. All other vegetables can be grown here as well as, or better than, in England. Our land is cultivated carelessly, for land is in plenty and labour scarce. The price of farming implements, any of which can be obtained at Calgary, is about as under (£1=4·86 dols., 100 cents to the dollar, or roughly 5 dols. to the £) :—Pair of horses, good, fit for work on farm or for driving, 400 dols.; wagon,

100 dols. ; choice milking cows, 50 dols. to 80 dols. ; cows running wild, 35 dols. to 40 dols. ; oxen (700 lbs. to 800 lbs. weight), 50 dols. to 70 dols. ; harness, 40 dols. ; self-raking reaper, 150 dols. ; mowing machine, 80 dols. ; horse rake, 40 dols. ; breaking plough, 30 dols. ; harrow (double), 25 dols. ; and all other trifling implements, too numerous to mention, at reasonable prices. I have by last mail sent you five local papers, and will send you more.

The style of living here is very primitive, the settlers dwelling in huts of one or two rooms, and living on beef, bacon, potatoes, bread, and vegetables, any quantity of which can be obtained ; but if inclined for luxuries their requirements can be at once satisfied, exactly as in London or New York, by going to Calgary (which is only eight miles distant from my farm), where they can buy all they require. Below are the prices of a few necessities :—Beef or mutton, 12c. per lb. ; bacon, 14c. per lb. ; flour, $3\frac{1}{2}$ dols. good, to $4\frac{1}{2}$ dols. best, per 98 lbs. ; sugar, 12 dols. per 100 lbs. ; black tea, 30c. to 50c. per lb. ; milk you would get from your own cows ; vegetables can be grown, or purchased if required.

Houses here are generally constructed of logs in the first instance, on account of being cheap ; afterwards numbers build better houses according to taste, either of dressed boards, stone, or bricks, whichever most desirable ; all the appliances are here now, and next year they will be reasonable in price. A temporary house can be put up for about 150 dols. (or £30) if you have your own teams to fetch the logs, because timber for building has to be brought from 5 to 12 miles off—*i.e.*, in this immediate vicinity ; the house, of course, would not be *quite* as stylish as one you have been accustomed to, but it will be warm, and the grounds may be larger, for you can obtain 160 acres for nothing, and as many more from the Canadian Pacific Railway as you wish to buy at from 2.50 dols. to 6 dols. per acre, within six miles of the railway. Stone can be got almost anywhere, at all events within three or four miles—a very easily worked flat stone, very like grinding stone.

Calgary, which last May (1883) only contained two stores, now that the railway is here can muster twenty, and many more coming to establish. A very large immigration is expected here in the spring, and the town of Calgary is expected to become an important one ; already two miles is laid out for the town in small lots of 25 to 30 ft. frontage—price of each lot ranging from 150 dols. to 400 dols. at the first sale. The neighbourhood all round Calgary is well watered by an endless quantity of running streams, and springs open all the winter. Trees almost invariably are thick along the banks of all the streams. The man and wife you allude to can do well if industriously inclined—the man can obtain 30 dols. to 45 dols. per month *and* his board, as a labourer ; as a mechanic he can obtain from 3 dols. to 5 dols. per day (without board). The wife can always find plenty to do, either by job work or at the needle, as woman's labour is very scarce. A girl who would wish to hire herself out as a servant on any farm could get 20 dols. per month, the year round, including board. As regards belonging to a "Blue Ribbon Army" it is of not the slightest importance, as we are all "Blue Ribbons" here by *Act of Parliament*.

As regards my opinion as to the desirability of settling in this district, I have travelled the American continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Mexico to the Peace River north, and have taken this as my choice ; but I would recommend you to come without much luggage, so that on the road here you would be able to see the Winnipeg District, Brandon, and Regina, as well as Moose Jaw ; so that if this country fell short of your expectations, you could fall back on any other part you might have given a preference to in passing through. Calgary is 840 miles west from Winnipeg, in latitude 51° N., and two miles west of the 114° of West longitude. As to your inquiry whether a man should bring his wife with him, my idea is that he could

do better with her than without her. He would, in fact, find her very useful indeed. With a capital of £200 they may be able to start very well with it, in a quiet way. Of course they would have no luxuries, but at the same time, if both be energetic, they are sure to succeed. It is a great advantage to a man having a large family, and you will find able and willing hands a great boon. Your daughters would find plenty of employment about your farm, both pleasant and healthy. A lady from England, who settled here last July, has promised me that she would write her experience of the country and how she likes it. *Via* New York, Chicago, and Winnipeg is the best way here, especially in the early spring, autumn, and winter, as it throws one into more southern latitudes in crossing the Atlantic. Besides this is the quicker way. It would be a great advantage if your son could come out early in the spring, because then he could get a house well fixed up for the winter, and many other important things done. Above all, let him bring as few things as possible, as everything can be obtained here, and he will know better what is required. There are undoubtedly some hardships to be endured by a new comer, but it is these hardships that make men fit and able to cope with any difficulty. Your husband's profession would be an advantage if he felt inclined to practise it, as in all probability he would obtain in a very short time as good and valuable a connection here as he has in London.—I remain, yours faithfully,

JOHN GLENN.

*Fish Creek, near Calgary, Alberta, Canada,
January 11th, 1884.*

WHAT A SETTLER FROM YORKSHIRE SAYS OF SOUTHERN MANITOBA.

The *Huddersfield Examiner* published the following letter from one who had farmed at Crosland Moor, near Huddersfield:—

MR. LEES,—Dear Sir,—You will, no doubt, be glad to hear from me, as I promised to write, and now take the pleasure of doing so. We had a good voyage, all being very merry and happy. Some of us had a little sea sickness the first day or two. We landed on Saturday week after setting sail, and were just ten days on board ship, though we were delayed several times by the fog, when the captain was very careful. After landing, in five hours we took the train, and were in the train three days, except when we stayed for refreshments. After that we took ship again, on the Lake steamer, to Duluth, and stayed Sunday over. Then we took train for Winnipeg, riding again for 24 hours; arrived there about 7 p.m. on the Monday night, being altogether 18 days on the journey. But it must be understood that we stayed at Duluth and Sarna two days. Well, sir, I could have engaged before we got to our journey's end had I wished, but as soon as we stepped off the train there were any amount of engagements ready, though I did not engage for a day or two. Then I did engage to South Manitoba for 30 dols. a month, or 30s. a week, with good board and lodgings, including washing. At first things looked strange, but I am very comfortable, though a man coming out here must not expect to find things just as he has left them. Yet those who are willing to put up with it for a short time will more than make up for it, as he will soon be master of 320 acres of as good land as can be found. We have had a very good crop here this year, and a very good harvest too, though they tell me that this is a bad year here. Well, sir, if this is a bad year here, I say God help the poor Yorkshire farmer, who seldom indeed ever sees one as good. The farmer here will cut all his corn before he thinks of carting

any away, and is as careless as can be about his corn, for they would let it rot sooner than lead it away on a Sunday, as many about Huddersfield would do. Wild fruit grows here in abundance, such as cherries, black currants, cranberries, bilberries, and gooseberries, and all you have to do is to gather it. There are also wild fowl, such as ducks, geese, turkeys, and prairie chickens are also in abundance, and anybody that likes can shoot them. No game laws here in Manitoba. Well, so far, I like the country very well, much better than I did at first, and I say that if a man will be steady he has nothing to do but get on here, whether he be a working man or otherwise; but drones and drunkards need not come here, as they are not wanted, but good steady workmen will soon be their own masters, and as for farmers with a small capital, they will find good interest for their money. I hope very soon to take up my homestead and pre-emption, which will be altogether 320 acres of good land. Any steady working man has nine chances here to one in England, if he will only exert himself. Should any of my friends inquire about me, tell them I am first-class, and glad you induced me to come out here. I will, however, write again after a while and tell you further what I think of it. Sir, you are quite at liberty to make what use of this letter you like, if you think it worthy.—I am, dear sir, yours truly,

WILLIAM PACEY.

*Calf Mountain, South Manitoba, Canada,
November 22nd, 1883.*

PRECEPTS FROM A SENSIBLE SETTLER.

The *Kilmarnock Standard* published the following extract from a letter received from a gentleman in Manitoba, supplying information which may be of interest and value to many of our readers. The writer of the letter is resident at Virden, Manitoba:—

As to farming, I think there is no doubt that it will pay well any man who settles within, say, 10 or 15 miles of the railway. Beyond that distance, so far as I can see, hauling to market will swallow up so much of the price received for produce that a man may make a living, but will not do much more. Wheat, of course, is to be our staple crop. Of it one may take as an average crop 30 bushels to the acre. For it we get this year at Virden, our market, 80 cents (3s. 4d.) per bushel. We get it cut with self-binding machine for 1 dol. (4s. 2d.) per acre. Thrashing costs 4 cents (2d.) per bushel. This leaves the farmer, roughly speaking, and allowing for other expenses, but not for his own work, a profit of 20 dols. (over £4 per acre). Oats, which run about 60 bushels to the acre, sell for 30 cents (1s. 3d.) per bushel. Potatoes grow about 400 bushels to the acre when well cultivated, but, as a matter of fact, nobody has time to do them justice, and about 200 bushels is the usual run. They sell just now here for 37½ cents (1s. 6¾d.) per bushel, the cheapest they have ever been. But there is no steady demand for anything but wheat, and it is to it that we have to look for our profit. As a general rule, every man is working for himself; very few can afford to hire men yet, so I will give you an idea of how much land one man can cultivate. The first year, with a yoke of oxen, he can break (first ploughing of the sod) about 40 acres. This is a reasonable amount; some men talk of doing double this, but I think it is mostly talk. The breaking season lasts from beginning of June till end of July. This lies rotting in the sun for two months or more, and is then ploughed over again (backset we call it), and is then ready for the crop. Next year he can sow this and break other 40 acres, but if he is still working single-handed he

will not have time to backset it and plough all his stubble. About 60 acres is, I think, about as much as he can keep going with one team of oxen. With a team of horses he can do fully a half more. With two teams and a two-furrow gang plough he will go over fully twice as much land as with one. In calculating the profits from the above data, you must not forget to take into account the rise in the value of the land through the improvements done on it, and the surrounding country settling up. The amount of this, of course, nearly altogether depends on the quality of the land and the situation. The capital required to start a farm depends on the style in which a man does it. Plenty men start with £400 or £500, and find it all gone before their farm is self-supporting; and others start with nothing, and manage, by dividing their time between working out and working at home, to get set a-going in a year or two. If a man wants to settle at once on his own land and work right along for himself, I don't think he can do it under £200. But if he likes to divide his time, as I said before, he can start from nothing upwards. I myself had only 16s. left after I entered for my land, and now I am fairly well set a-going, and after I get in next year's crop will be all solid, and I had the disadvantage of knowing nothing about farming, besides being inclined to be lazy. It is a slow process, but it can be done. But one has to exercise any amount of self-denial, and put his own comfort simply out of the question. The main lesson to be learned is self-reliance, to be your own carpenter, smith, cook, and everything else. Neighbours are very glad to help one another when they have time, but as a rule every one has plenty to do to look after their own affairs, and they soon get tired of a man who is always wanting help. About store-keeping. It, of course, pays better than farming, but then, of course, there is more risk about it. The stores here are mostly general stores, and keep everything, so it requires a pretty good capital to run one. This is the case more especially now, as the wholesale storemen have got very strict about giving credit. Two years ago they started hundreds of men without capital, giving them stocks payable by monthly instalments, and the dull times lately finished most of them up. Not but what they got good profits, and their working expenses were only their personal expenditure; but a man can't run a business of that sort here any more than anywhere else without capital. On flour and other staples they have a small profit, about 5 per cent. On soft goods, such as clothing, boots, &c., 25 per cent. is considered a fair profit. On crockery, glass ware, and all fancy things they can pile it on tremendously—I would be afraid to say how high. I happen to know pretty well the wholesale and retail prices, as I have seen through the books of one of our stores here. A man is his own shopman, and nearly always the store belongs to him, so that he has no wages and no rent to pay. I do not think a store with a good stock could be started with less than £600. That is to say, to leave a man free to buy in the cheapest market, and not be confined to deal with one wholesale man. It would not be easy (almost impossible, in fact) for a stranger to get a situation in a store unless he had some influence or some very special recommendation. Most store-keepers are their own shopmen, as I have said, so situations are scarce, and there are always lots of candidates for them. I have just time to say a few words about the climate. It is warmer in summer and much colder in winter than at home. But though the winters are cold, most days are very pleasant, and nine men out of every ten prefer the cold to the wet and slush of the old country. I like the climate much better than that at home; the only thing I dislike are the thunderstorms in summer, which are pretty frequent and very vivid.

A FEW PRACTICAL DETAILS BASED ON EXPERIENCE.

The following letter was forwarded to the *Canadian Gazette* by one who is deeply interested in obtaining and diffusing the most reliable information regarding experience in the North-West :—

DEAR SIR,—You wish to have my views on the Canadian North-West, and my opinion of its climate and soil. I have much pleasure in complying with your request, and will confine myself to a very brief statement of my own experience of what I have seen and felt. First, as to climate, my experience extends only from beginning of March to end of December of last year. I found the summer agreeable and not at all too hot, while the winter weather was quite enjoyable, although before I left the thermometer had for some time indicated 15 degrees below zero, and there were about five inches of snow. Notwithstanding this low temperature I never put on an overcoat, except when going for a drive, but went about in my ordinary tweed suit as when in the old country. My brother's opinion of the climate, however, will be more to the point than mine, as he has been in Manitoba for three years. Well, he says he likes it as well as any climate he has known, although in his profession of naval engineer he has visited many parts of the globe. He is now settled near Moose Mountain, and has no intention of leaving it. The severity of the winter is often alleged as a reason that will prevent cattle being raised in the North-West. I will give a proof to the contrary. The autumn before I went out to my brother's farm, a neighbour of his, a few miles off, who had a large tract of land in which were several hundred head of cattle, had provided for his cattle's winter provender a large quantity of prairie hay. A prairie fire took place, and the hay was all destroyed. Next spring, however, when I was there, the cattle were found to have come through the winter fresh and in fair condition, and, I believe, without a single death having occurred : yet they had had nothing but what they could pick up themselves, and the only thing in the way of shelter was a clump of wood on one part of the lands. As to soil, the best proof is, what amount and quality of crops does it raise? Last season on my brother's farm we threshed the wheat soon after cutting, measured, and sold it. The yield per acre was about 32 bushels, the weight, per bushel, about 66lbs., and it was sold in the neighbourhood at 1 dol. per bushel. The oats were not sold nor measured, but we estimated the yield at over 70 bushels per acre, and the weight at about 40 lbs. per bushel. Turnips, carrots, and parsnips grow good crops, potatoes a very large crop ; cabbages were enormous, and peas most luxuriant. Several farmers from Dakota were settled in our neighbourhood, and I was told that farther south, between Moose Mountain and the Frontier, there were a considerable number from that State. I should have mentioned that my brother's cattle were managed in winter in much the same fashion as is customary with your young cattle at home. For housing they have an ordinary shed to which they go at night, and during the day they loiter about the straw-ricks where the grain has been threshed. My opinion of the country as a whole, however, may be best shown by the fact that I am going out early in March to settle there for good. During last summer I bought a farm, put up a house, and ploughed 40 acres, and I go out in time for seeding. Trusting I may have the pleasure of seeing you at Moose Mountain.—I remain, yours truly,

WILLIAM TAYLOR.

February 22nd, 1884.

A SERIES OF ANSWERS FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

The following letter is designed (says the *Canadian Gazette*) to answer many correspondents :—

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of the 9th ult.

1. There is plenty of land at Calgary, but for Government land you have, as a rule, to go further; about 10 miles of railroad land about two miles off.

2. There is plenty of water, and it is very pure; for good quality is unequalled in England.

3. All implements and all things needful for home and farm can be got at Calgary. I think the expense of moving them there from elsewhere would be dearer than buying at Calgary.

4. The supply of horses and oxen here is scarce just now. A good yoke of oxen about 225 dols. (£45). A pair of horses about 400 dols. (about £80), but the price of course varies according to supply and demand.

5. There are several medical men at Calgary with little to do, for the climate is so healthy.

6. By all means bring families here at once, as women are in great demand here, their work being worth money.

7. I think the amount of capital (£100) small, but being no rent, taxes, water, fuel, to pay for, it would go much further than in England, and any one with industry would get on well.

8. Labouring men get from 30 dols. to 45 dols. per month, and board. Mechanics from 3 dols. to 5 dols. per day without board.

9. The wheat will all be wanted at Calgary or in the mining districts close at hand; in fact, more than can be grown here.

10. Land can be got not far apart, but most likely not altogether. If you do get it altogether, it may be in a more inferior part. It would be for each one or so to choose his own and get a choice of land. You ought to be here soon, before the flow of immigration sets in.

11. The cost of a log house depends upon size, from 75 dols. to 300 dols. A frame one cannot be mentioned without knowing the dimensions. Boards readily dressed cost from 30 dols. to 45 dols. per thousand feet.

12. There is no alkali in the land about here.

13. Book right through to Calgary, as it only costs 15 dols. from Montreal to Calgary, whereas any 300 miles of the distance any other way would cost as much.

14. The money you would pay for firearms will be more useful to you here than they will be, as many want to sell theirs after they get here. Bring one if you have it without buying.

I should advise any one coming not to bring more with them than necessary, both on account of the charges to pay and also the trouble of looking after them. I may say that any young ladies or old maids desirous of changing their names have an excellent opportunity of doing so, as there are numbers of bachelors here who are doing well who are in want of housekeepers. Ladies' servants are very much wanted here, and can command from 20 dols. to 30 dols. per month (from £4 to £6) with board.—I am, dear sir, yours truly,

JOHN GLENN.

Fish Creek, near Calgary, 15th February, 1884.

THE COLD NO OBSTACLE.

One who has gone through the Canadian North-West thus laughs at the idea of the climate deterring strong and willing emigrants :—

SIR,—I have read the very interesting letter in a recent issue of your paper signed "JOHN BULL." I quite agree with your correspondent that any men who have a practical knowledge of agriculture, or those who can cheerfully meet the obstacles that pioneers in a new country must expect, may safely proceed to Manitoba. It has, undoubtedly, a great future before it on account of its excellent soil and agreeable climate. As your correspondent remarks, the winter is bright, yet rigorous ; but, after all, the farmer in Canada has to do much the same sort of work as his brother agriculturist in England. I may say, however, that I do not think the pamphlets issued by the Government of Canada are exaggerated. It is true that the rates of wages and the cost of living alter from time to time in Canada as in every other country, and I find that this is expressly pointed out in their pages. I will not take up more of your space than to send you an extract from a letter I have received from a settler in Manitoba, and which you may like to publish, as it contains some very practical and useful information :—

"You ask for my experience of the country. I will say its climate in the summer is most lively, and in winter, as far as I have seen, frosty and crispy, but always plenty of sunshine and wonderfully dry. There is not the slightest doubt that the country has a wonderful future before it, and I strongly advise people who are coming out to lose no time. The prospects are undoubtedly good, and there are markets for all kinds of produce. I am very well pleased with the land, and the locality I have chosen is only six miles from a station. I am very close to water and only six miles from Pipestone River—full within five miles. I am wonderfully in love with the climate, and do not believe there is a healthier place on the face of the globe. Farm labour is quite equal to the demand just now. The current price I have heard quoted for wheat is 90c. per bushel ; oats are low. The winter really sets in in the middle of November. As to its being severe, I can laugh at it ; the thermometer has been down to 35° below zero, but it is so dry, and the sun is always shining, that you don't feel it. You must not be afraid of the winter. Price of breaking is 5 dols. per acre. Potatoes turned out good by keeping them in a cellar. Our nearest stores and post-office is six miles off. Settlers are generally satisfied and very hopeful."—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

CANADIAN.

THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST A CURE FOR CHEST DISEASES.

We have often been asked if those afflicted with chest diseases or weaknesses dare emigrate to the Canadian North-West, and in our fear of misleading we have never gone further in our answers than to say that, other things being equal, a dry climate must be better than a damp one ; but now we are able to reproduce a letter from the *Bath Herald* from the pen of a lady who is wintering in the Canadian North-West as a cure for a chest affection. Our readers may not all know Bath, and we may say that the air there is soft, moist, and gentle in a very conspicuous

degree, and no greater change could be imagined than that involved in passing from Bath to Winnipeg ; but those who read this letter will find that in this case with the change has come a vigour of mind which sees in New Canada endless sources of healthful interest:—

SIR,—In *The Bath Herald* of January 12th, kindly forwarded to me by a friend, I see a reprint of a letter addressed to the *Times*, and headed ‘Educated Emigrants.’ So much interest is now taken in the Canadian North-West that some of your readers may be interested in hearing something of Manitoba from a Bath resident who is spending the winter there, having been advised to try the climate for a chest affection requiring dry air. Having spent four months with a friend in Winnipeg, I am going shortly to visit another in the Turtle Mountain district, to which Mr. Aitkens alludes in his letter, and if intended ‘educated emigrants’ would like to be made acquainted with a lady’s experiences of Manitoban life in any *special* details I shall be pleased to give them any information I am able in reply to inquiries. We are now in the midst of winter, the snow which fell in November lies in the streets and on the prairies, the icy beds of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers are covered with it, and are a convenient highway for the country sleighs bringing grain, hay, and wood for sale in Winnipeg. Everywhere it is a white world, and the usual temperature is many degrees below zero. January was a very cold month ; when the new year opened the thermometer stood at from 30 to 40 degrees below zero ; but we had a brilliant sunshine, a blue cloudless sky, and a calm air. Very warm wraps are necessary here to ensure protection from frost-bites, but when proper precautions are taken outdoor exercise is pleasant and healthful. The houses are provided with double windows, the hall stoves are kept burning day and night, and pipes are carried from them through the ceilings into the bedrooms, which are thus comfortably heated. We have had the same glorious sunsets which have been spoken of in other parts of the world, continuing far into the twilight, and lighting up the western skies with the most luminous tints of amber, orange, and crimson. The sky has appeared like a sea of molten gold, which gradually deepened into a fiery red. A subject of great interest to the whole Dominion has been this winter started in Winnipeg, and is at present under eager discussion. It is the scheme of a railroad to Hudson’s Bay, which would open up a new route to Liverpool, and give the Manitoba farmers facilities for conveying their produce to the Eastern Provinces of this continent as well as to Europe. The country settlers, as well as the citizens of Winnipeg, are strongly in favour of it, and careful inquiries are being made as to its feasibility. Of this there seems but little doubt. Many English people are unaware that Winnipeg is the same locality as the old Fort Garry, the headquarters in this district of the Hudson’s Bay Company, and placed at the junction of the Assiniboine with the Red River. The Indian tribes of Sioux, Crees, Chippewas, and others, who dwelt on the Red River prairies, traded with the Hudson’s Bay Company at Fort Garry, receiving various European articles for the valuable furs they gave in exchange. Though the fort is demolished, some of the buildings remain, and very near them street-cars are now continually plying between the Assiniboine Bridge at one end of Main Street and the Canadian Pacific Railway station at the other, for Winnipeg is an active, bustling city of some 25,000 inhabitants. The shops are numerous and good, and the Hudson’s Bay store, a very large and well-managed drapery establishment, supplies the ladies with the latest English fashions in dress and upholstery, though at much higher prices than would be given for the same article at Bath. The temperature is more variable here than is generally represented. Yesterday morning it was 2° above zero outside

our front door ; to-day, at the same hour, it was 26° below zero, and in a more exposed situation, outside the city, on the open prairie, the thermometer was at 38° below zero in the early morning. There are good boys' schools at Winnipeg ; one of these, St. John's College, is under the personal superintendence of the Bishop of Rupert's Land, who is the head-master. As I see by English papers that have been forwarded to me that the degree of frost in Manitoba has been under discussion, it may be new to some people to hear that all the meat in the butchers' shops is frozen as hard as marble, that milk is sold by the pound as well as by the quart, and that greengrocery is carried round for sale in a small wooden house mounted on sleigh-runners ; the stove which is kept burning within keeps the vegetables in good condition. Ice-carts are now busy on the Red River getting up the ice in huge blocks of a lovely sea-green colour, to be stored for summer use. In October we had very variable weather, frost, thaw, snow, and rain in succession, the temperature resembling that of an English December. About the 10th of November the rivers froze over, and when the snow fell it no longer thawed. It is not expected to disappear till the end of April. At present, however brilliant the sunshine, no alteration takes place in the dry crispness of the snow under foot, but the increasing solar heat is telling on some of the housetops, the edge of the roofs being decorated with a thick fringe of spear-like icicles, of different length and thickness. In spite of its severity the Canadian winter is much enjoyed, its dryness is a preventive of coughs and sore throats, and though the sky is not always blue the bright sunny days are more numerous than the gray ones ; there is but little wind, and when it snows no Winnipegger thinks an umbrella necessary, for the dry, small flakes shake off immediately. As the temperature in the winter never rises so high as freezing point no rain falls. There are no evergreen shrubs ; they could not resist the intensity of the frost, and there are none of the early flowers that delight the English eye in January and February—a dazzling white mantle of snow covers everything. I enclose my address for the present, to be given if asked for.

ANGLIA.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, February 6th, 1884.

READINESS TO WORK THE GREAT NECESSITY.

The *Weekly Budget* publishes the following, and thus introduces it :—"It gives practical information upon matters certain to interest those of our readers who think of trying to improve their present condition by emigration. It will be seen that in our correspondent's opinion there are chances for those who will work hard and put up with privations. It is no good whatever for any one to go out expecting a life of ease and luxury. The *only* road to success in the New World, as in the Old, is the one of hard work and persistent perseverance, with a definite and plain object in view"—

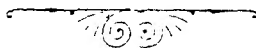
SIR,—It is only when one gets to a far-away region like this that he can appreciate the dear old *Budget* at its true value. I have to pay 25 cents (1s.) for its carriage from Calgary here—100 miles. I thought this rather exorbitant at first ; but when the mail-carrier came into camp on his last trip, with hands, feet, and face frozen, I was willing to concede him the point. I am half afraid you will not find enough of interest to warrant the insertion of this letter, as everything becomes so commonplace as you get acquainted with the country. After I left Corey's Camp, I passed

through one of the immense stock-breeding ranches which are situated on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains. According to all accounts, this industry has not been a paying one so far. On this ranche alone 4,000 head of cattle died from the severity of the weather and depth of snow during the winter of 1882-83; and residents affirm that without winter protection it cannot prove a success. I would not advise any of your readers to come within 100 miles of the Rockies with the intention of taking up land for general farming purposes, as the perpetual snow lying on the different peaks is the fruitful cause of summer frosts within this radius. I prefer the eastern to the western part of this vast territory for agricultural pursuits, and special inducements are offered to the farming class to settle in certain localities. Twenty miles north of Broadview, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, you can find the Temperance, Primitive Methodist, and some other five or six colonisation companies' lands. Seeing an advertisement of the York Farmers' Colony, I stopped at Broadview, and took a run up there on the stage, where I found the land to be A 1 in quality, fairly well watered, but sparsely timbered. They are willing to help a settler to erect his first house, and plough sufficient land for his requirements during the first year. They give every other section away to actual settlers, and depend for their profit on the sale of the remaining sections to those who prefer to buy land rather than proceed to uninhabited regions. Silver City, where I am now located, is about 20 miles east of the summit of the Rockies, and lies in a valley called the Bow River Pass. It has a population of nearly 200 men, four married and two unmarried women, and 50 dogs. The single women I really pity, as the number of eligible young men who go to see mamma must frighten them. The only work here at present is manufacturing timber to suit the requirements of the railroads, and a small amount of silver-mining. The mines are situated at a height where vegetation has ceased to exist. The wages paid to competent men is ten shillings per day and board; but whether the ore will contain enough silver to pay cannot be told till the crushers and smelters are put to work. If they "pan" out good we shall have a big rush here in the spring. To tell your readers the wages paid for timber work is quite a difficult thing, as we work by the piece. So much depends upon one's skill with the axe, that it would not be fair to say that any one coming from England, and unused to this kind of work, could command very high wages. I have averaged during December a trifle over 11s. per day, and there are some in camp whose averages have exceeded £1 per day. I do not think I am going too high when I say that the wages for loading, cutting roads through the woods, &c., would be 8s. per day. Out of this has to be deducted £1 per week for board. The food supplied is rather poor. Bread, butter, pork, beans, and a strong cup of tea form the staple articles of consumption. One thing to be said in favour of this mountain air is that it prevents you quarrelling with your food. Anything you buy in the shape of clothing is very dear—9s. for a pair of stockings, made very thick and suited to the country; 10s. for a common working shirt, and other things in proportion. A married man whose wife would be willing to wash could do very well in these small towns. There is a half-breed woman here who has all she can do at the rate of 15 cents (7½d.) per article. Need I say more? The class of men one meets out here are a curious mixture of good and evil. Curt in their speech and rough in manner, they would lead a stranger to suppose that they were an unsociable set of beings, yet underlying this there is a firm will, a tender heart for misfortune, and a reverence for women; and though I advise no one, yet I should be the last to dissuade any young man from trying his fortune in the North-West, provided he is prepared to work hard and exist without those luxuries which have grown into necessities in older countries. My plan now is to work hard and save all I can, until I have enough to take up a piece of land

and commence farming on my own account ; for this is the only way to attain independence and comfort. Of course it will be very uphill work for some time, but the object is worth fighting for. Previous to settling down I want to run over into British Columbia, as I have a fancy the climate is mild. I will let you know how I find it. Here the cold is intense, although I prefer the hard frost to mild days, when the deep snow is damp under foot ; for as one is working away at the foot of a tree, a great lump of slushy snow suddenly falls from a bough down one's back. As for the girls—Heaven bless them !—I do not think you could send out too many, for there is a good-hearted though rough husband (not your drawing-room swell sort) waiting for each one who will come out ; but she must be prepared to be a good old-fashioned wife—a real “ *helpmate* ;” and this statement will have hundreds of endorsers through the North-West. Could you not get some one to start a kind of Marriage Office, to which we could all send our photos, and in that way get wives to cheer our lonely hearths out here? I often wonder what causes the fascination in this kind of hard, roving life ; but that this fascination does exist, one only needs to be here and see men who have held good positions in society wedded to this roving life. But I suppose the world requires men like us, who place all their property in a bag and their life in their belt, and wander away, opening up these wild regions to civilisation !—Yours truly,

HERBERT PIERCE.

*Varney's Camp, Silver City, Rocky Mountains,
January 16th, 1884.*



Every Thursday. Price Threepence.

THE
CANADIAN GAZETTE.

*A Weekly Journal of Information and Comment upon Matters
of Use and Interest to those concerned in Canada,
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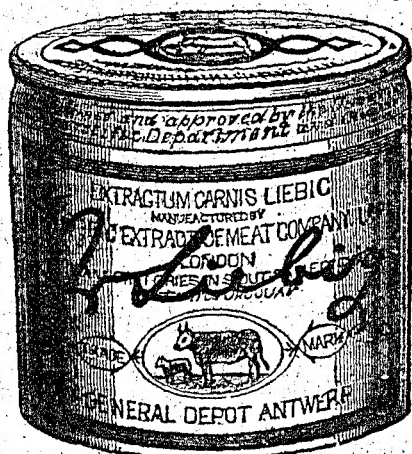
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